

Obsidian Management Policy

Warner Mountain Ranger District
Modoc National Forest
Modoc County, California

Purpose

The Warner Mountain Obsidian Management Policy (Policy) provides direction for the disposal of obsidian, a common variety mineral material, on the Warner Mountain Ranger District (WMRD), Modoc National Forest (MDF). The Policy promotes educational, recreational, and commercial opportunities at the designated Collection Areas within a framework of respect and care for natural and cultural resources within the multiple-use management of the National Forest. The Policy follows direction in the Modoc National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (1992) as amended (LRMP), and is expected to provide guidance for obsidian management on the WMRD for 10 years.

Authority

On July 31, 1947, Congress passed the Mineral Materials Act to provide discretionary disposal of mineral materials, i.e. common varieties of which obsidian is one. The Mining and Minerals Policy Act of 1970 provides for the government contribution to an adequate and stable supply of mineral resources while sustaining the land's productivity and capability to support biodiversity. Forest Service regulations found in Title 36 Code of Federal Regulation Part 228 carry out these laws. Forest Service policy is to make mineral materials available to the public and government agencies "where reasonable protection of, or mitigation of effects on, other resources is assured..." The MDF LRMP locally supports National law, regulation and policy, the standards and guides of which are applied in this Policy in the following ways:

- Provide a management plan for rock hounding (LRMP 3-15);
- Encourage development of mineral resources (LRMP 4-18);
- Prohibit unnecessary disturbance and provide reasonable restoration (LRMP 4-18);
- Specify which mineral material sites are available for public use (LRMP 4-18);
- Protect cultural resources by directing activities or use away from sensitive areas (LRMP 4-14);
- Inform Forest users of cultural resource protection requirements (LRMP 4-14,4);
- Increase quality and quantity of recreation and scenic byway development (LRMP 3-22);
- Increase interpretive services for greater visitor satisfaction (LRMP 3-23);
- Provide a variety of developed recreation sites (LRMP 4-19)

Policy

The Warner Mountain Obsidian Management Program, through the Obsidian Management Plan, will be administered within the context of the principles of ecosystem management. The WMRD will:

- Administer the program according to legal and regulatory authority;
- Foster cooperation and development of partnerships with Federal and State agencies, Tribes, public, professional, educational, recreational and commercial groups, and community representatives to enhance opportunities and interpretation;
- Integrate the Obsidian Management Program with the planning and management of natural resources through the WMRD and MDF planning process;
- Administer the Program to a level commensurate with the work force capabilities of the WMRD to ensure the level of resource utilization and protection required by law and regulation;
- Require Operating Plans for all commercial mineral sale activities to meet safety and resource protection standards;
- Require a Certification for Personal Use for recreational excavation and/or collection, by which instructions can be given for resource protection and safety;
- Authorize excavation and/or collection of obsidian exclusively within the four designated Collection Areas for the greater protection of all other heritage sites on the WMRD.

Locations

The designated obsidian Collection Areas are within the following legal locations.

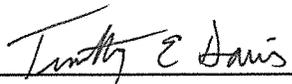
Rainbow Mine: T46N, R14E, SE1/4 SE1/4, Sec. 12 and NE1/4 NE1/4, Sec. 13

Pink Lady Mine: T45N, R15E, SE1/4 NE1/4 and SE1/4, Sec. 32

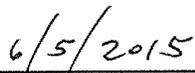
Obsidian Needles: T45N, R14E, SW1/4 SE1/4, Sec 12

Middle Fork Davis Creek: T45N, R14E, NE1/4 NE1/4, Sec. 26

This Policy shall be carried out through the Obsidian Management Plan.



TIMOTHY E. DAVIS



Date: